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E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/01/06  
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [UZ](#)  
SUBJECT: UZBEKISTAN: RESPONSE TO ATTACK ON BROTHER-IN-LAW OF  
BIRDAMLIK LEADER

CLASSIFIED BY: Robert McCutcheon, Econ Officer, State, Pol/Econ  
Office; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

¶1. (C) According to Internet reports, the brother-in-law of  
opposition Birdamlik movement leader Bahodir Choriev was severely  
beaten in an incident that took place between Christmas and New  
Years. Post has confirmed these reports in conversations with  
Choriev's father and sister. In response, the Ambassador has sent  
the following letter to FM Norov.

BEGIN TEXT OF LETTER

January 6, 2010

Dear Mr. Minister:

In the spirit of frank exchange on the basis of mutual interest and  
mutual respect demonstrated during our bilateral consultations in  
Washington last month, I wanted to raise with you a matter that has  
generated some concern. We understand that Mr. Nurm Muhammad  
Nurkhonov, the brother-in-law of American green card holder Bahodir  
Choriev, was attacked near Shahrizabz around New Year's Eve. He was  
beaten and cut with a knife by unidentified attackers. We also  
understand that local police have yet to open an investigation, and  
that the hospital where Nurm Muhammad Nurkhonov was treated for his  
wounds refused to provide him with a copy of the medical report on  
his case. There is speculation that this attack may have been  
provoked by the Choriev family's involvement in unauthorized  
"Birdamlik" political activities in advance of the December 27  
parliamentary elections.

It is our assumption that a matter of this gravity is being  
investigated by the appropriate Uzbek law enforcement agencies. Any  
information you could provide regarding the Uzbek government's view  
of these reports would be extremely helpful in keeping Washington  
up-to-date on the actual state of play in this matter.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to raise this issue with you in  
confidence, and look forward to further deepening of the U.S.-Uzbek  
dialogue across the full range of issues in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Norland

His Excellency

Mr. Vladimir Norov,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of

The Republic of Uzbekistan,

Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

END TEXT OF LETTER  
NORLAND